



Fire Department
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For Immediate Release

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Structure Fire in the 1900 Block of DeWitt Court **1900 DeWitt Court, City of Waukesha**

WAUKESHA, Wis. – On January 19, 2024 at approximately 11:45 am, the City of Waukesha Communications Center was alerted by a City of Waukesha Department of Public Works snow plow operator of a structure fire on DeWitt Court. The snowplow operator (Mason Damaske - a 3 ½ year employee of the City of Waukesha Public Works Department) was out plowing cul-de-sacs in the community and noticed smoke coming from the garage. Once the operator got to the single family residence, he noticed a snow blower that was on fire on the inside of the garage at 1900 DeWitt Court. Simultaneously, the occupants of the residence called 911 to report the problem and they were given instructions from the Dispatcher to exit the structure and that the Fire Department was enroute. Mason Damaske acquired the fire extinguisher from his plow truck and was able to extinguish the fire, preventing it from auto-extending to the structure and limiting the extent of damage to the snowblower and the garage contents in the immediate vicinity. While Damaske was discharging the fire extinguisher, the occupants of the residence exited the building.

The Fire Department arrived shortly after the fire was extinguished by Damaske; four minutes and 23 seconds after the fire department was alerted by Dispatch. Once on scene, fire department personnel checked on all occupants, provided them with a warm space to shelter, while verifying that the fire was out and that there was no further extension to the occupancy and contents.

There were no injuries to the occupants or fire department personnel. Fire Department personnel estimate damage to contents to be \$1,500. The family was able to return to the residence once fire department personnel completed their operations. The cause of the fire was attributed to the snow blower being put away “hot” after use and contents in the garage immediately around the unit catching fire due to radiant/conduction heating. The City of Waukesha Fire Department would like to thank our response partners, the Waukesha Police and Public Works Departments for their fast response and assistance in protecting the lives and property of our citizens.

The fire department would like to acknowledge the excellent response from our Public Works Operator, Mason Damaske, for his quick response ultimately limiting damage and protecting the lives of these residents in our Community. **Additionally, this incident reaffirmed the importance of having working smoke detectors and**

practicing exit drills in every home. “Today, all of the City came together to save lives and property in our Community. This truly exemplifies what ‘Community’ means here in Waukesha!” remarked Assistant Fire Chief Joe Hoffman. “Our City’s commitment to safety was recognized by the fire department personnel.”

Photo provided by resident.



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